

fireworks



Tue 5/18/2021 1:15 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

To Kittery Town Council and Manager:

Why are residential fireworks legal in Maine? I regrettably live next door to a home that uses fireworks year round
Can you say **annoying**. Not to mention these folks aren't even Maine residents. It seems to me that many if not most Maine communities prohibit residential fireworks for good reasons. Please change the legal status of fireworks and firecrackers in Kittery. Sooner or later kids and adults are injured and property damaged using fireworks.

Searching for quite

Gary Silver
Kittery Pt

Seapoint Beach Fires

Christie Salema <[REDACTED]>

Sat 5/22/2021 10:38 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Longtime Kittery resident here—

Please keep fires available at Seapoint for residents. We suffer through shipyard traffic and outlet traffic. Please keep any and all perks of being a townie in place.

Thank you,
Christie Salema
Resident since 1997

Christie Salema
Director, Team Trevor
www.teamtrevor.org

Team Trevor, a 501c3 charity dedicated to accelerating research for rare CF mutations.

-Sent from my iPhone. Please forgive all abbreviations and typos. I tend not to wear my glasses when I should...

Public Comment: Seapoint & Crescent Beach

Chris Perkins <[REDACTED]>

Mon 5/24/2021 12:00 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Kittery Town Councilors,

I am writing in regards to May 24, 2021 agenda item 13.d. and my concerns relative to Title 12 and Fires at Seapoint and Crescent Beaches. This is submitted for inclusion under agenda item 11.

As you may be aware, many Kittery teenagers and young adults use the beach regularly at night, essentially without incident. There is generally an informal process in which regular visitors can expect Kittery police to arrive at the beach, kindly note the time, and indicate it is time to disburse for the night. This is a year-round activity – everyone goes on their way after a night of socializing at one of the great amenities available to Kitterians and one of the few that cater to this demographic.

Restricting the numbers of fires, requiring a permit for every beach fire, or banning fires altogether will introduce and invite a heavier police presence and punitive actions taken against our residents. Asking a group that spontaneously congregates to get a permit beforehand at the police station will go as you might expect. They are then subject to penalties. Which juvenile or young adult receives a penalty – everyone on site at a given time? An arbitrarily selected individual? The most vocal complainant? The last one walking off the beach at the end of the evening?

More rigid and prolonged beach policing also diminishes local law enforcement's ability to police the town at large and has the potential to create conflict between local law enforcement and an important cohort of our community. Conflicts lead to emotion. A minor civil violation can become something worse. Nuance is lost and seeds of distrust sown, during a period in which relations between youth and police nationally are far from ideal. I am confident this is not what proponents of regulatory tightening want to happen, but every new or more restrictive regulation increases that likelihood.

Limiting the number of fires simply exposes these groups to penalty when they don't adhere to an arbitrarily-assigned number. More likely, this demographic will simply be incentivized to go to other, more private settings where more risky behaviors might occur. Driving this cohort away from the beach and into more clandestine locations and troublesome behaviors, so a beach can be devoid of humans after dark, does not feel warranted.

I feel that more heavily regulating casual fires at our town beaches will disproportionately impact certain members of our community. Re-writing ordinances and more explicitly determining how to ban activities or penalize noncompliance strips residents of a unique and important cultural feature of our town. Perhaps a reasonable and community-focused approach would instead be for law enforcement, during regular patrols to the beaches primarily at end-of-day, to verbally reinforce to beachgoers the requirement to carry out all trash and to fully extinguish fires, and be mindful of residents while leaving the area departure.

This type of community-level policing and messaging seems to best ensure continued positive outcomes. Accordingly, I am requesting that this not be advanced to the public hearing stage.

Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully,

Chris Perkins

28 Leach Road